

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

Paul J. McNulty
United States Attorney

2100 Jamieson Avenue (703) 299-3700
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

News Release

For Immediate Release
Alexandria, Virginia
July 16, 2004

For further information contact
Sam Dibbley at 703-842-4050

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Thomas E. Smith, Jr., and Tyrone B. Smallwood were each sentenced to life in prison today by the Honorable T.S. Ellis III, United States District Judge, for the murder of Conrad Shelton, which they committed during a drug conspiracy in which large amounts of crack cocaine were sold in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Both men were convicted by a federal jury in Alexandria on February 25, 2004.

On February 11, 1996, Smith and Smallwood brutally shot Conrad Shelton 12 times near his family's home in Washington, D.C. They believed Shelton had been involved in the theft of three kilograms of cocaine and \$80,000 in cash. Smith and Smallwood were also sentenced to an additional ten years imprisonment for using a firearm during Shelton's murder. Smith was sentenced to another life sentence for conspiring with others, including Smallwood, to distribute cocaine. Smallwood had previously been convicted in the District of Columbia of distribution of cocaine, but had been released from prison by the time he was charged with Shelton's murder. Smith, 33, was a resident of Temple Hill, Maryland, and Smallwood, 34, was a resident of Forestville, Maryland, before their arrest last year.

Another individual, Anthony Brown, was sentenced by Ellis in April of this year to 30 years imprisonment for aiding in the murder of Shelton by acting as a "lookout."

United States Attorney Paul J. McNulty stated: "This brings justice to a cold case. Smith and Smallwood were walking the streets thinking they got away with murder, but now they will never walk the streets again. We can finally bring closure to this victim's family."

The prosecution of Smith, Smallwood and Brown was the culmination of a five year investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to break up a violent crack cocaine distribution ring centered in the "Trinidad" neighborhood of Washington, D.C. The participants would often launder their drug money in Virginia, buying and registering cars here. They also stored their cocaine and guns at a home in Alexandria. Over a dozen individuals have been convicted within the drug conspiracy and have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms.

Assistant United States Attorneys Erik R. Barnett, Michael E. Rich and Brian D. Miller prosecuted the case.